

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussions, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 9-11, 14, 15, 20 and 22 have been amended herewith. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not introduce any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title was objected to; Claim 1 was objected to because of an informality; Claims 1, 19, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 12, 13, 23 and 24 were withdrawn from further consideration; Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14-17 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Quatrano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,420) (hereinafter “the ’420 patent”); and Claims 7 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Quatrano et al. in view of “Official Notice.”

In view of the objection of the title, the title has been amended herewith, without narrowing the scope of protection to which the applicants are entitled.

In view of the objection to Claim 1, Claim 1 has been amended to render moot the objection. It is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1, 19, 14 and 20 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, those claims have been amended to render moot the rejections. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not narrower than the original claims as the original claims would have been understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in the same way.

In response to the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by the ’420 patent, those grounds for rejection are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites:

a gatekeeper module configured to (1) mask the identity of each client computer to prevent a web site corresponding to the web site URL request from retrieving an actual identifier of any client in the group and (2) create a same temporary identifier for each client in the group when any client in the group logs on to the web site so that a same web page corresponding to the web site URL request is displayed for all the clients in the group.

Such a positively recited limitation is not taught by the '420 patent. As can be seen in Figures 3 and 7 of the '420 patent, the browsers connect directly to a web server 30, such that the identity of each client computer is not masked. This violates condition (1) of the gatekeeper module. In fact, the '420 patent explicitly states in col. 6, lines 1-15, the very section cited by the office action, that "session identification information (for both the shared session and each participant) is maintained within the collaboration adapter of the invention." This too appears to indicate that the identity of each client is not masked.

Moreover, col. 6, lines 25-37, of the '420 patent states:

Other features of the invention include the removal, alteration, or the addition of information or content into the application response information based on the identity of the participant requesting the information. For example, if an agent of an institution is collaborating with a computer user and each is a member of a shared session, the application response information presented to the agent may be void of any advertising information for instance, while the same application response information provided to the computer user/customer may contain institutional advertising information. In one particular embodiment, multiple versions of application response information can be stored such

that each version is associated with a different respective identity of a  
shared session participant.

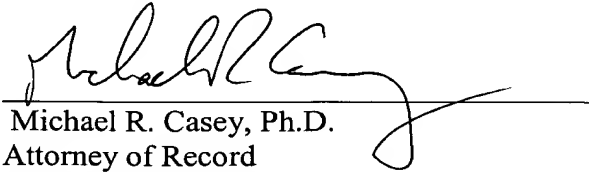
Thus, the '420 patent does not create a same temporary identifier so that a same web page corresponding to the web site URL request is displayed for all the clients in the group, since some users see different web pages. Moreover, this is further evidence that the identity of the client is not masked. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be indicated as allowable over the cited reference.

Similarly, since claim 9 recites "means for masking" and "means for creating", and since claim 14 recites "masking" and "creating", those independent claims and their corresponding dependent claims are patentable over the cited reference for reasons analogous to the reasons set forth above for the patentability of claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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